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Ministry of Forests and Range

HALALT FIRST NATION AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES WOODLOT

VICTORIA – The Halalt First Nation will receive $480,000 and establish a woodlot as a result of a five-year agreement with the Province, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"Through these agreements, we're creating diversity in our forest sector and building our relationships with First Nations," Coleman said. "We're continuing to deliver on our commitment to revitalize the forest industry."

Timber for the 400-hectare woodlot will come from the Arrowsmith Timber Supply Area within the band's asserted traditional territory near Chemainus. Under the Forestry Revitalization Plan, the Province committed to reallocate timber to First Nations, communities and woodlot operators to create new opportunities in forestry.

The Halalt have 202 members on two reserves northwest of Victoria on Vancouver Island. It is the 105th First Nation to negotiate a forestry-related agreement with the Province. Since 2002, government has shared more than $120 million in forestry revenues and access to nearly 17 million cubic metres of timber.

"This agreement will allow the Halalt to create jobs for our people in B.C.'s biggest industry," Chief Councillor James Thomas said. "It also allows us to explore other economic opportunities."

Since 2001, the Province has been working with First Nations to provide economic growth and opportunities, especially in traditional areas like forestry. Government is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations based on reconciliation, recognition and constructive consultation on social and economic issues.

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